



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

Prelude

What Child Is This?

Richard Purvis

Advent Candle Lighting

Lucy Nanney & Sammi Bati

Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind. Hand over your heart. Here it comes – love. It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It will not cower and cannot be contained.

It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist and the courage of Mother Mary. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Love, you lead us home.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love.

Congregation : We light a candle for love. May it light the way.

Greetings

Rev. Henrietta Brown

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Mark Pedigo

Be still and hear the Christ Child has come
Even the angels proclaim His birth.

A child is born in the city of David
A silent night, a holy night.

Children see Him in their own way
Yellow, red, black and white they are precious in His sight
Jesus loves all the little children of the world.

***Opening Hymn**

People Look East (stzs. 1, 3, 4, 5)

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***Opening Prayer**

Rev. Mark Pedigo

Confession

Rev. Colin Knapp

**God of Love Incarnate,
we confess that, with the shepherds,
we are terrified of Your glory;
for in glory's light we see plainly
all that is wrong in the world:
how oppression still enslaves;
how garments of war are still stained with blood;**

how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.
 We also see what is wrong in us:
 how passionately we pursue the things of this world,
 but forget to ponder the mystery of faith;
 how we do not practice the peace You intend
 in our relationships, our community,
 or even in the church.
 Forgive us, we pray,
 and help us not to be afraid.
 Like the shepherds,
 we want to follow and find You.
 In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends,
 by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 Blessed be the God of our salvation,
 whose mercy is everlasting.

Response

Waiting for You

Hannah Rand

Waiting for You

Lenora Rand

Hannah Rand

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a time signature of 8/8. The first staff contains the melody with lyrics: "We are wait - ting for you. We are wait - ting for you." The second staff begins with a measure rest marked with a '4' and contains a more complex melodic line with lyrics: "We are wait - ing for that glo-ri-a in ex-cel - sis De - o." The score ends with a double bar line.

A Reading

Touched By An Angel

Maya Angelou

Children's Message

Maureen Deahl

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

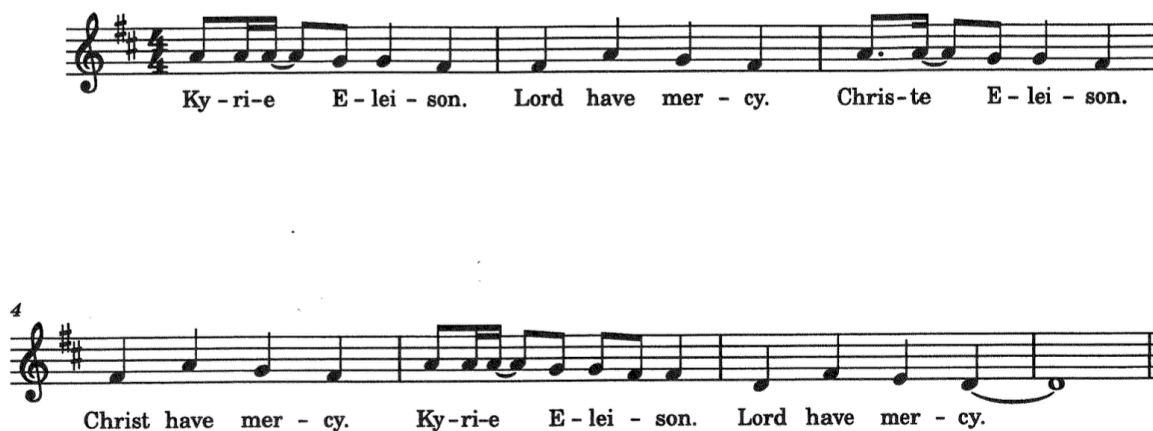
One: This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

Prayer for the Offering

Rev. Mark Pedigo

***Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Prayers of the People Kyrie Eleison, Lord Have Mercy**Insert:** Musical response: Kyrie Eleison**Kyrie Eleison**

Lord's Prayer *All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the manner of their choosing, included below is one version:*

Our Father (Mother, Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Announcements**Closing Hymn**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

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***Benediction**

Rev. Henrietta Brown

Postlude

Swiss Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin

Prayers from Last Sunday:

Nursery Care during worship is available for children ages 5 and under. Please see an usher for location. Today's Nursery Attendants are Katherine Obed & Otto Huber.

Today's Liturgist is Rev. Mark Pedigo. Connect Leaders are Maureen Deahl. Ushers are Lee Capps and Bruce Cox. Our Online Worship Coordinators are Delena Wilkerson, Chuck Behensky, David Taylor-Glass and Carol Bustamante. Our Sextons are Claudia Divis and Leslie Lauderdale. **We give our thanks** for their important contributions to our worship gathering.

A deacon will be available for **healing prayer** every Sunday, after worship, in the front pew.

Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 PM

All are welcome to join us tonight for a candlelight service of lessons and carols as we celebrate Christ in our midst, with joy and singing!

Christmas Fund Special Offering Accepted

Sunday, December 24, 2023, 5:00 PM

Pilgrim supports the work of the wider UCC – the Illinois Conference and National Setting through two ways. First, we directly support the conference through our benevolence budget. Second, we support the national setting through special offerings intended to cover specific programmatic needs. At the Christmas Eve service we have the opportunity to give to The Christmas Fund, which supplements pensions for those pastors and lay church employees whose ministries have typically been in smaller, often financially struggling congregations. These supplements offer help with food, medical care, and other living expenses. You can donate to the Christmas Offering online, on the tithe.ly app. or by depositing a check with Christmas Offering on the subject line.

Friday Bible Study

Beginning Friday, January 5, 2024

We will resume our weekly noon Bible study with The Letter of Paul to the Romans. The resource we will use is [Romans: 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups by N.T. Wright](#). (available from many sources - this link it to Thriftbooks). Our study will be divided into two 8 week sessions: Part I - January 5th - March 1st. Part 2 - April 5th - May 31st.

We will meet from 12:00-1:00 pm, via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please email me by January 1st and I will send you the Zoom link., Gloria Cox - revgcox@gmail.com. All are welcome!

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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Go Tell It on the Mountain

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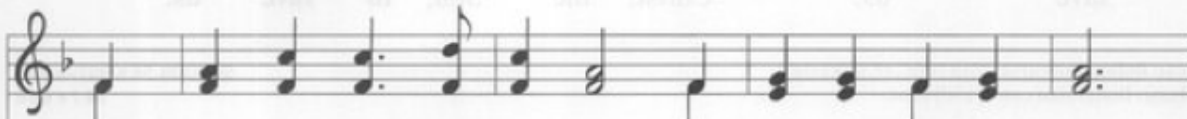
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



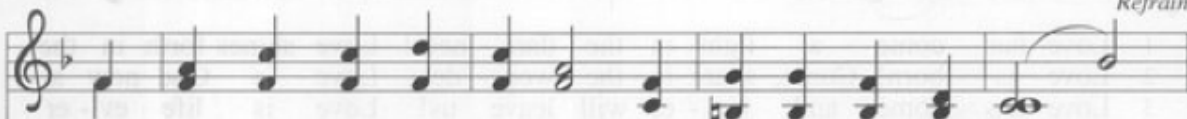
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: African American spiritual

GO TELL IT
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MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

Community of Congregations has established a Migrant Response Portal through which community members can volunteer their time, expertise and donate money and supplies to support our new neighbors. To volunteer time and talent; or donate, click here:

<https://www.communityofcongregations.org/migrant-crisis/>

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